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**From:** Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3C5A111DC377411595E5B24B5D96146B-ORME-ZAVALITA, JENNIFER]  
**Sent:** 1/26/2021 5:06:38 PM  
**To:** D'Amico, Louis [DAmico.Louis@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: GAO Report on IRIS

No specifics, we received the report and are evaluating it, will brief new leadership and follow up w GAO....

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, PhD  
Acting Assistant Administrator, and  
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development  
US Environmental Protection Agency

DC 202-564-6620  
Cell 919-699-1564

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**From:** D'Amico, Louis <DAmico.Louis@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: GAO Report on IRIS

See below. Another media inquiry on the GAO report. Kacey and Carolyn came to be for input on how to answer. This one is trickier because it also explicitly references the statement made on the House SST website when the report came out (<https://science.house.gov/news/press-releases/house-science-space-and-technology-chairwoman-and-senate-environment-and-public-works-ranking-member-call-for-improvements-to-epas-chemical-health-assessments->).

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

-Lou

Louis D'Amico, Ph.D.  
Senior Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code 8101R | 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW | Washington, DC 20460

Office: 202-564-4605 | Mobile: 703-859-1719 | email: [damico.louis@epa.gov](mailto:damico.louis@epa.gov)

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**From:** Fitzpatrick, Kacey <Fitzpatrick.Kacey@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** D'Amico, Louis <DAmico.Louis@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Vasko, Jacqueline <Vasko.Jacqueline@epa.gov>; Hubbard, Carolyn <Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: GAO Report on IRIS

Hi Lou- See below an inquiry about the GAO report on IRIS. How should we respond?

Kacey Fitzpatrick

Science Communication  
Office of Research and Development  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office: 202-564-4086  
Cell: 202-701-8634

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**From:** Sullivan, Melissa <[sullivan.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:sullivan.melissa@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 10:05 AM

**To:** Fitzpatrick, Kacey <[Fitzpatrick.Kacey@epa.gov](mailto:Fitzpatrick.Kacey@epa.gov)>; Hubbard, Carolyn <[Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov](mailto:Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov)>; Vasko, Jacqueline <[Vasko.Jacqueline@epa.gov](mailto:Vasko.Jacqueline@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Fwd: GAO Report on IRIS

Good morning,

We received an inquiry about the IRIS GAO report.

Deadline is 10:00 AM Wednesday.

Thank you,  
Melissa

I'm a reporter with Research Professional News. We are the UK's main source for research policy news.

I'm covering the GAO report on the EPA's IRIS programme released on 19 January (<https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-21-156>). I wanted to give you the opportunity to respond to the following criticism from Senator Tom Carper that there was political interference at IRIS:

*"Throughout the past four years, political officials in the Trump Administration did everything possible to starve EPA's Integrated Risk Information System program of resources. They silenced the experts and buried 'inconvenient' science that highlighted unsafe chemical."*

Can I also ask if, as urged by Carper and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, the EPA under new leadership will reverse the changes made in 2018 to the IRIS annual survey, and review any suspensions and discontinuations of chemical assessments since 2018?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** [Robin.Bisson@researchresearch.com](mailto:Robin.Bisson@researchresearch.com)

**Date:** January 26, 2021 at 10:02:04 AM EST

**To:** "Sullivan, Melissa" <[sullivan.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:sullivan.melissa@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: GAO Report on IRIS

Thanks Melissa, much appreciated

Robin

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**From:** Sullivan, Melissa <[sullivan.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:sullivan.melissa@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** 26 January 2021 14:50

**To:** Robin Bisson <[Robin.Bisson@researchresearch.com](mailto:Robin.Bisson@researchresearch.com)>

**Cc:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** GAO Report on IRIS

**CAUTION:** EXTERNAL Email.  
Good morning Robin,

We are working on this for you.

I will be in touch as soon as I am able.

Thank you,  
Melissa

**From:** [Robin.Bisson@researchresearch.com](mailto:Robin.Bisson@researchresearch.com)  
**Date:** January 26, 2021 at 8:12:46 AM EST  
**To:** Press <[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Request - GAO report on IRIS

Dear EPA Press Office,

I'm a reporter with Research Professional News. We are the UK's main source for research policy news.

I'm covering the GAO report on the EPA's IRIS programme released on 19 January (<https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-21-156>). I wanted to give you the opportunity to respond to the following criticism from Senator Tom Carper that there was political interference at IRIS:

*"Throughout the past four years, political officials in the Trump Administration did everything possible to starve EPA's Integrated Risk Information System program of resources. They silenced the experts and buried 'inconvenient' science that highlighted unsafe chemical."*

Can I also ask if, as urged by Carper and Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson, the EPA under new leadership will reverse the changes made in 2018 to the IRIS annual survey, and review any suspensions and discontinuations of chemical assessments since 2018?

My deadline for receiving a response is 10am ET on 27 January.

Best wishes,

Robin

**Robin Bisson**  
**Global Funding Correspondent**  
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